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Report of Commonwealth Statistician on -

UNEMPLOYMENT - 4th QUARTER, 1932.

Trade Union Returns.

The number of trade unionists represented in the returns from which the following figures have been derived is normally about half the total. The proportion is now, perhaps, rather higher because the Unions from which no returns are received include those with the most fluctuating membership, and whose membership at the present time is probably unusually low. Generally it may be said that the returns of unemployment include little information about rural employment, so that the percentage results given herein do not vary greatly with the season. The total unemployment in the country, however, may be affected a good deal by the crop seasons.

The percentages of unemployment in reporting Trade Unions for each quarter of the last two years were:-

1931	1st Quarter	..	25.8	per cent.
	2nd Quarter	..	27.6	" "
	3rd Quarter	..	28.3	" "
	4th Quarter	..	28.0	" "
1932	1st Quarter	..	28.3	" "
	2nd Quarter	..	30.0	" "
	3rd Quarter	..	29.6	" "
	4th Quarter	..	28.1	" "

Besides the fact that rural employment enters directly into these returns only slightly, it must be noted that they refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of November.

The percentages given above show, for the more recent periods, the almost continuous rise which had been uninterrupted since 1929. After remaining fairly constant at 28.0 per cent. to 28.3 per cent. for three quarters - from August, 1931, to February, 1932 - the maximum point hitherto attained was reached in May, when the proportion of unemployment in the reporting Trade Unions was 30 per cent. of the membership. The August reports showed a slight improvement of about 4 per thousand members, but the November reports show a further substantial improvement of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (15 per thousand members) on the August figures. This improvement has been shared by all the States. The reduction of unemployment per 1,000 members between August and November in the several States was:- New South Wales, 11; Victoria, 18; Queensland, 14; South Australia, 32; Western Australia, 12; Tasmania, 31.

The improvement in unemployment has not only been common throughout the States but it has been general throughout the ten groups into which it is customary to divide industries for the purpose of this statement. The reductions per thousand members in the different industries were:- Wood, Furniture, etc., 10; Engineering, Metal Works, etc., 13; Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc., 23; Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc., 35; Books, Printing, etc., 11; Other Manufacturing, 15; Building, 14; Mining, Quarrying, 19; Land Transport, other than Railways and Tramways, 19; Other 9.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

UNEMPLOYMENT - AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership
of Trade Unions Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed -
1st Quarter, 1929; 2nd Quarter, 1932 to 4th Quarter, 1932.

AUSTRALIA			1st Quarter 1929.	2nd Quarter 1932.	3rd Quarter 1932.	4th Quarter 1932.
Number of Unions	375	396	395	392
Membership	420,756	413,742	412,997	409,902
Unemployed - Number	39,159	124,068	122,340	115,042
Percentage	9.3	30.0	29.6	28.1

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions returned as Unemployed
in each State for the 1st Quarter, 1929; 2nd Quarter, 1932
to 4th Quarter, 1932.

State			1st Quarter 1929. %	2nd Quarter 1932. %	3rd Quarter 1932. %	4th Quarter, 1932. %
New South Wales	9.7	33.2	33.0	31.9
Victoria	8.6	27.7	27.0	25.2
Queensland	7.1	19.9	19.3	17.9
South Australia	13.2	35.2	35.4	32.2
Western Australia	8.5	30.3	30.1	28.9
Tasmania	8.7	27.4	26.9	23.8
<u>AUSTRALIA</u>	9.3	30.0	29.6	28.1

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - Australia -
1st Quarter, 1929; 2nd Quarter, 1932, to 4th Quarter, 1932.

Industrial Group			1st Quarter 1929. %	2nd Quarter 1932. %	3rd Quarter 1932. %	4th Quarter 1932. %
Manufacturing -						
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	6.5	39.6	39.4	38.4
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	11.2	33.9	32.9	31.6
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	5.4	19.4	20.7	18.4
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	9.8	22.6	21.3	17.8
V. Books, Printing, etc.	2.6	16.8	16.7	15.6
VI. Other Manufacturing	13.8	43.0	41.3	39.8
VII. . Building	10.6	42.1	41.6	40.2
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	13.2	34.2	35.6	33.7
X. . Land Transport, other than Railway and Tramway Services	7.6	29.6	29.9	28.0
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV, Other and Miscellaneous	7.3	22.2	22.0	21.1
<u>TOTAL</u>	9.3	30.0	29.6	28.1

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
CANBERRA, F.C.T. 6th January, 1933.